

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Friebe (U.S. Patent 6,588,211). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

To perfect the present application's claim to the priority of DE 101 21 665, submitted with this Reply are an English translation of the German priority application and a statement that the English translation is accurate.

This shows that the invention defined in claims 1-20 had been conceived and reduced to practice by the priority date (May 4, 2001), which predated the filing date of Friebe (November 1, 2001). Therefore, Friebe is not prior art to the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

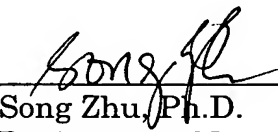
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Application No. 10/684,710
Reply dated August 31, 2004
Response to Office Action dated June 3, 2004

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.52624US).

Respectfully submitted,

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